

## **Second Grade**

### **Persuasive/Opinion Performance Writing Task**

After Reading, “Dogs: A kid’s Best Friend” and “Cats: The Purr-fect Pet for Kids”, answer the following question.

**Which do you think is the best pet for a kid, a dog or a cat? Explain why. Support your answer with at least three to four details from the sources.**

**Source #1**

## **Dogs: A Kid's Best Friend**

Most kids want to have a pet. But which is the best type of pet for a kid? There are many choices out there, from birds to rabbits to fish. It can be difficult for many people to know which pet is the right one. But for kids, the answer is simple: a dog!

A dog is a kid's best friend. It is loyal and loving. It waits patiently for a kid to come home from school every day. And it is there with a wagging tail when he or she walks in the door. A dog is a constant playmate that loves spending time with you. A kid who has a dog is never lonely.

Also, dogs love to run and play. They help to keep kids active and healthy. A dog would make sure that a kid gets up off the couch and moves around.

Dogs help kids feel loved. They are always there to help. They can help cheer kids up when they are down. A dog will quietly sit with a kid and be a friend that he or she can talk to. Sometimes it helps just knowing that your dog is by your side.

Dogs have even been shown to improve kids' confidence levels. They are used to help children who are learning to read. Some dogs are paired with kids who read aloud to their four-legged friends. The dogs are quiet and patient listeners. They do not judge the kids on how well they can read. They help kids feel good about themselves.

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Finally, dogs help teach kids how to be responsible. Taking care of a dog is hard work. A dog needs to be fed and given fresh water. A dog also needs to be let outside in the yard or taken for a walk a few times a day. These are tasks that a kid can learn to do.

Many people might say that a cat is the easiest pet to take care of because it sleeps all day. They might think a cat is the best type of pet for a kid. But a cat cannot give a kid the joy that a dog can. It is clear to see that the best childhood pet is a dog.

## Source #2

### Cats: The Purr-fect Pet for Kids

Many people think that a dog is the perfect pet for kids, but they could not be more wrong. Dogs need a lot of time and effort to take care of them. Cats, on the other hand, need very little work. And they give lots of love in return. For this reason, they are the best pet for kids.

Through the years, cats have gotten the reputation for being unfriendly animals that like to be left alone. This could not be further from the truth. Cats normally are very friendly with their owners. They form strong bonds and love to be with their owners. Cats are loving and loyal pets.

Cats teach kids how to be gentle and kind toward animals. If a kid were to jump on a cat it would run away. But if a kid stroked the cat gently, it would return that kindness and spend time with the child. This is an important lesson to learn.

Also, cats are good for kids' health. They do not run around outside with kids like dogs do. But studies have shown that petting a cat and listening to it purr can help a person relax. A nervous child feels better after stroking a cat's fur.

Kids can also play indoors with cats, helping to keep them active. All they need is a small cat toy or a ball of string. String or yarn can keep a cat busy for hours!

Another important point is that cats are much easier to care for than dogs. Cats require food, water, and fresh kitty litter. This is not much at all. A kid would not have the same big responsibilities he or she would have with a dog. This would leave more time to spend on other activities.

Finally, cats really understand their owners. If a kid were to feel lonely or upset about something, the cat would know something was wrong. If the cat had a bond with the child, it would try to comfort him or her. Perhaps it would rub against the child, or maybe purr loudly. The child would not feel alone with a cat at home!

Cats are wonderful pets for anyone. But there are many good reasons why they are the best pet for kids.